

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 263
By Person

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Cherrie Pardue Holden on her recent appointment as Chief Justice of the University of Memphis Student Court.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who work assiduously, without thought of personal profit, to make their respective communities better places to live; and

WHEREAS, Cherrie Pardue Holden of Shelby County is most assuredly one such citizen who deserves special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Holden serves with distinction as a citizen member of the Tennessee Court of the Judiciary; she was nominated for this important judgeship by her senator, the distinguished Senator Curtis Person, Jr., Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the senior elected Republican official of the State of Tennessee, and was appointed to the court by the Honorable Don Sundquist, Governor of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a longtime fan of blues music, specifically made-in-Memphis Blues, Mrs. Holden demonstrates her multitude of talents as the business manager of Ecco Records, an exemplary blues recording company in Memphis, which is fortunate to have the inspired leadership of president, John Mills Ward, the son of Margaret and the late E.C. Ward and a true visionary in the world of music; and

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WHEREAS, Cherrie Pardue Holden is also an excellent student at the University of Memphis, where she is working on her Bachelor of Professional Studies degree in Contemporary Tennessee Political History under the astute and sagacious guidance of the extraordinary Dr. Charles Crawford, a noted authority on the history of our great state; and

WHEREAS, for the past thirteen years, Mrs. Holden has been an active and valuable participant in the political process, with particular emphasis on Republican participation; and

WHEREAS, during this period, she has been involved in virtually every Republican campaign in Shelby County and has closely monitored the actions of this General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, an activist for multiple conservative organizations and causes without hesitation or reservation, she has been honored with numerous opportunities to assist in drafting legislation and lobbying for and against bills pending before the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, a citizen who fully understands that citizenship entails many responsibilities, as well as privileges, Mrs. Holden has served with acumen in many capacities with numerous praiseworthy organizations, including meritorious service as past Recording Secretary and Historian with Shelby County Republican Women; Secretary of the East Shelby County Republican Club; a member of Shelby County Young Republicans, from which she received the 1996 Grassroots Award; a member of Shelby County Republican Career Women; a charter member and a founder of Republicans in Business; past President of Women's Ministries of Evangel Church; former editor and publisher of the statewide bi-monthly newsletter, *Salt & Light Network*, which was founded upon scripture from Matthew 5:13-16 and sponsored by the Tennessee District Assemblies of God Churches; board member of FLARE for three years, serving also on FLARE publicity and membership committees; director of the political action committee for Tennessee Right to Life; and a member of the Shelby County Regional Advisory Committee for HIV/AIDS Awareness; and

WHEREAS, she is also actively involved in numerous other beneficial community and public service organizations that welcome new citizens to Shelby County, support quality education and the needs of our children and promote good citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Cherrie Pardue Holden comes by her love of politics and government naturally, since she is from a family blessed with many distinguished public servants, and accomplished political activists; and

WHEREAS, she is the daughter of Jerry Pardue, the undisputed champion spinner of tall tales and giver of wise advice, and Tommie Pardue, a noted advocate of the Arts in Tennessee and longtime contributor to the arts education of the schoolchildren of our state; and

WHEREAS, she is happily married to Richard Holden, a longtime business owner in Memphis and selfless giver of his talents and time to his community, who also serves as a Shelby County Republican Election Commissioner, and is the proud mother of Rich Holden, age fifteen, and Ben Holden, age seven, who are lovingly described by their mother as “the two most wonderful boys on Earth”; and

WHEREAS, one of the proudest and joyous moments of Mrs. Holden’s life occurred when she was present on the Senate floor as her oldest son, Rich, then thirteen years old, addressed the Senate from the well regarding a piece of legislation he had conceived; to this date, Rich is believed to be the youngest person to have ever addressed the Senate from the well; and

WHEREAS, Rich Holden not only conceived the idea for this much needed legislation, he also recruited Senator Person to sponsor it, and testified eloquently before the Senate Education Committee in its support, thus gaining unanimous support for his bill; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Holden is a member of the Chucalissa Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution from which she received the 1996 Volunteer of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, her children, Rich and Ben, serve as President and Registrar, respectively, of the John Sevier Chapter of the Children of the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Holden has also experienced tremendous success in the world of business and finance, first as an investment banker and government bond trader and then as an entrepreneur and owner/operator of three businesses of her own; and

WHEREAS, she has demonstrated her myriad talents as host, creator, producer and director of the popular issue-based radio program *Inside Memphis!* ; and

WHEREAS, recently, Mrs. Holden's exceptional knowledge of the law and legal procedure and her ongoing commitment to fairness and equity were appropriately recognized when she was appointed to serve as Chief Justice of the University of Memphis Student Court, an honor most befitting this outstanding public servant and citizen; and

WHEREAS, she had previously served the Student Court with distinction as Associate Justice and Associate Chief Justice; she also serves the University of Memphis as a member of the Academic Discipline Committee; and

WHEREAS, she recently received the 1997 President's Student Leadership Award for Excellence in Service to the Student Body, which was presented to her personally by the President of the University of Memphis, Dr. V. Lane Rawlins; and

WHEREAS, Cherrie Pardue Holden should be specially recognized for living the examined life with purpose and courage; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Cherrie Pardue Holden on her recent appointment as Chief Justice of the University of Memphis Student Court, commend her meritorious career as a public servant and political participant, and salute her commitment to God, family and country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish Mrs. Holden all the best in what we are sure will be a sterling tenure as Chief Justice and bestow upon her the official title of "Chief Justice of the General Assembly".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.